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28 May 1956

COMNAVIER

EAST GERMANY/VP-SKE Preparations For ASW

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No depth charges are produced in the SOVZONE. Depth charge projectors and racks are in use. Five different types of sonar gear are being developed: TAMIR, HAI, WRACK-SUCH GEMANT, KREBS and TINTENFISCH. VP-SKE had made unsuccessful attempts to obtain WEST GERMAN sonar gear. They also had access to samples displayed at the LEIPZIG FAIR.

1. Depth charges.

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There was no depth charge production in the SOVZONE in April 1956 nor was any scheduled to be established in the near future. Depth charges available aboard VP-SKE craft and in unidentified VP-SKE storage facilities had been delivered by the Russians.

_____ sand-filled containers allegedly used in testing the depth-charge launchers. These dummy depth charges were cylindrical in shape, about 75 centimeters long and 40 centimeters in diameter.

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2. Depth-charge launchers.

Two different types of depth-charge launchers were available: "WERFER" (projectors) for firing the charges at a set distance from the sub-chaser, and another type called

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"Abrollvorrichtung" for just rolling the charges over the side.

a. "Werfer".

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Full name of the projectors was "Lasserbombenwerfer". They had been delivered by the Russians. [redacted] HAI-class submarine chasers were designed to have at least 2 on each side abait the bridge superstructure.

b. "Abrollvorrichtung".

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Cover name for this device was "Panzerladeeinrichtung". It had been designed jointly by DRESDEN department of INSTITUT FÜR SCHIFFBAUTECHNIK and PERLE Shipyard at WOLGAST. [redacted] the design was completely new and not copied from previous German or foreign designs. Manufacture of "Abrollvorrichtungen" took place at a small plant in the small town of HANERSLEBEN located between 30 and 40 kilometers westsouthwest of MAGDEBURG. The plant was otherwise a producer of various kitchen utensils. Two types of "Abrollvorrichtungen" existed: 1 with space for 3 and another with space for 6 depth charges. Both types were furnished with fully automatic remote control for release of the depth charges from the conning bridge. These electrical accessories were made by VEB GALVANOTECHNIK at LEIPZIG. The first order placed in 1955 asked for a total of 24 launchers of which 12 were for HANICHT-class craft (1 for every craft). [redacted] the other 12 were to be installed. In 1956, another order probably also asking for a total of 24 launchers will be placed. These launchers will probably also be for HANICHT-class craft and for the first KRANE-class craft. First trials with above launchers were conducted aboard HANICHT-class craft in shallow waters near PAROW in October 1955. For these trials, 2 sandfilled dummy depth charges were used which were afterwards recovered by divers.

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3. Sonar gear of TAMIR-type.

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[redacted] at present VP-SKE only had some TAMIR-type sonar sets available which they had obtained from the USSR. The sets were to be installed aboard HANICHT and KRANE classes.

4. Sonar gear of "Unterwasserortungsgerat HAI"-type.

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[redacted] submarines officially mentioned in connection with HAI-type sonar gear. It was his personal opinion that it could be used against submarines. The gear was being designed for VP-SKE. A general name for HAI-type sonar gear was "Horizontallot". The gear was also known by 2 other names, viz. "Hydrostat A" and "Unterwasserortungsgerat HAI". These 2 terms were officially used when referring to the entire gear, although the "Hydrostat A" was only a component part thereof being designed and developed by WTBG and "Unterwasserortungsgerat HAI" actually only meant the main part of the entire gear being designed and developed by RFT FUNKWERK LEIPZIG-PLAGWITZ. The

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streamlined body is to be lowered from and retracted into the ship's bottom was designed and developed by ISW branch office at DRESDEN. The only information on the gear under 25X1 development [redacted] the streamlined body at the ship's bottom housed the transmitter and rotated when transmitting beams; beams were rather broad; returning beams passed through a cathode-ray-tube; presentation was either on a screen or acoustically; the gear was to measure direction, depth, and distance simultaneously; range was to be 5 nautical miles. As "Unterwasserortungsgeraet HAI - Horizontalot" the research project was among those ordered and paid for by VP-SEE directly. In 1955, 178,000 East DM had been spent for the project; for 1956-work, another 425,000 East DM had been approved. For 1957, more funds will probably be approved by virtue of the importance of the project. Construction of the first prototype gear had not yet begun by 4 April 1956. Officer in charge of this gear was one Oberleutnant (Lt.j.g.) LAMKE in VP-SEE headquarters at ROSTOCK. Reference (a) and (c) contains further information on HAI class vessels.

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5. Attempts to obtain sonar-like gear from West-GERMANY.

In same connection with the above, [redacted] recent SOVZONE attempts to obtain help from west-GERMANY. One attempt had been to obtain 1 "Walenchgeraet" from ATLAS WERKE at BREMEN. The plant flatly refused to let SOVZONE have one. Another attempt was to obtain 1 "Lodargerast" from ELAC at KIEL. This plant also refused. Moreover, they did not send any sample set to LEIPZIG for display during the 1956 spring fair. As source explains, the SOVZONE government would always buy from any firm any samples sent in for LEIPZIG fair in case they were not sold during the fair. It is not known whether ELAC refused to send in a sample of LODAR on their own initiative or by order of BGRN government.

6. "Wracksuchgeraet".

Purpose of this device was to find objects ranging between the "size of a ship and that of a mine" on the sea bottom; this was the main requirement of the project. Presentation of any object detected by the device was to be on a screen. The device was to be responsive to the magnetism of the object. In connection with the above device, leading officers of VP-SEE had also thought of a device similar to the one used by the British when searching the scuttled airplanes of the COMET-type in the MEDITERRANEAN. Another similar device discussed in this connection was referred to as "Unterwasserferneuchgeraet" with presentation on a screen. Attempts were made in vain to place design and development order for the "Wracksuchgeraet" with RFT FUNKWERK KUEPENISK. An attempt was made to place the order with WIDG at BERLIN. They will probably do the work on the basis of a "Studienentwurf". The research project was among those ordered and paid for by ZENTRALAMT FUER FORSCHUNG & ENTWICKLUNG BEI DER STAATLICHEN PLANCKOMMISSION on behalf of VP-SEE. 150,000 East DM had been approved for 1956-work on the project. [redacted] it was planned to use this gear in searching for wrecks.

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7. "Geräuschpeilgeraete" types KUEBS and TINTENMISCH.

Design and development order for above underwater sound detectors had been placed with

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